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Labor and Labor Organizations

Vocations for the Trained Woman. By the RESEARCH DEPARTMENT OF THE WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION OF BOSTON. Studies in Economic Relations of Women, Vol. I, Part 2. (New York: Longmans, Green and Company. 1914. Pp. 175. \$1.50.)

Introductory papers, published in 1910, constitute part 1 of this volume; part 2 "contains the results of intensive studies in the Vocations of Agriculture, Social Service, Secretarial Service, and the Business of Real Estate."

The reports on agriculture and the real estate business are by Miss Martin, that on secretarial service by Miss Post, both fellows in the research department. The chapter on social service is contributed by the committee on the economic efficiency of college women, appointed by the Boston branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae. Forewords are included: on agriculture, by President Butterfield; on social service, by Professor Vida Scudder; and on secretarial service, by President Lefavour. Each report describes the various occupations within the vocation studied, the demands on personality and training, incomes available and typical, and general working conditions. The special opportunities for women are discussed. Statements are based on information secured from persons engaged in the occupations. Simple statistical tables present the investments, expenses, returns, and net income reported from the agricultural units studied, and the salaries received by secretaries and social workers. The investigations of agriculture, social service, and the real estate business were practically limited to Massachusetts, but the study of secretarial service includes about 1,500 secretaries in different localities.

The incomes reported are generally low. The most usual salary of college-trained women among the secretaries investigated is \$12 per week in the first year, rising to \$17 in the fifth year. Of 51 social workers reporting, 40 received less than \$1,000 per year. In agriculture and the real estate business, women are said to be seriously handicapped by the difficulty of securing experience as employees. A woman must generally enter these occupations with some capital and serve an apprenticeship to herself. The most encouraging aspect of the reports is found in the variety and significance of the work described.

Designed to meet the practical needs of an appointment bureau, the volume renders a wider service, for such studies, whatever their

purpose, contribute needed information on the vexed topic of women's economic relations.

EMILIE LOUISE WELLS.

Vassar College.

Unemployment. By A. C. PIGOU. Home University Library of Modern Knowledge, No. 79. (New York: Henry Holt and Company. 1913. Pp. viii, 256. \$.50.)

"This volume is the work of an economist" and "what distinguishes economists from the less patient of practical philanthropists," according to the author, is that an economist must found his measures for reform upon a close and thorough study of economic life as a whole. To do otherwise is to run the great danger of having unlooked for evils result from attempts at social amelioration. With this introduction Professor Pigou proceeds to find the meaning and measurement of unemployment and concludes: "We are able to define unemployment and to detect its growth and diminution, but adequately to measure its quantity is a task to which our present resources are at present unequal."

The outstanding idea through the whole volume is that "unemployment is wholly caused by maladjustment between wage-rates and demand" for labor, and the main inquiry of the book is into the influences which bring about this maladjustment. The idea is developed by explaining "the theoretical possibility that wage-rates at any moment and in every part of the industrial field can be so adjusted to demand for labor of various grades that no unemployment whatever can exist"; and the conclusion from this reasoning is that the most potent of the influences for causing maladjustment and unemployment are the attempts to maintain rigid wage-rates by means of trade unions and minimum-wage laws.

Fluctuations in demand for labor are ascribed mainly to conditions of credit and currency, and the author suggests modifications and improvements for making the demand more stable. The rest of the volume is mainly a discussion of theoretical consequences of direct state action, insurance and relief works for the unemployed. Those measures which logically seem to lead to a reduction of maladjustment and fluctuations are approved. The others are condemned.

Here we have speculative political economy at its best. Professor Pigou does not base his logic entirely on theoretical prin-